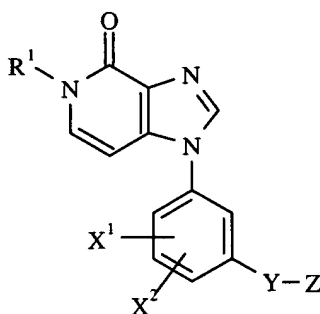


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (New) A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein:

X¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy;

X² represents hydrogen or halogen;

Y represents a chemical bond, an oxygen atom, or a -NH- linkage;

Z represents a group selected from phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> aminoalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, aryloxy, keto, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylenedioxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkyl carbonyloxy, aryl carbonyloxy, aminocarbonyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkyl carbonyl, aryl carbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio,

C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulphinyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, -NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>COR<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -NHCONR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -CONR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup> and -CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, in which R<sup>v</sup> and R<sup>w</sup> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, phenyl or phenyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, -COR<sup>a</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup> or -CONR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>; and

R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein X<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy.

13. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein X<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or fluoro.

14. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein Z is a group selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> aminoalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, aryloxy, keto, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylenedioxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, aminocarbonyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulphinyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, -NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>COR<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -NR<sup>v</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>w</sup>, -NHCONR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -CONR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup> and -CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>v</sup>R<sup>w</sup>, in which R<sup>v</sup> and R<sup>w</sup> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, phenyl or phenyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl.

15. (New) The compound of Claim 11 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, trifluoromethyl, -COR<sup>a</sup> or -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>.

16. (New) The compound of Claim 15 wherein R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl.

17. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:  
3'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
1-[4-fluoro-3-(5-fluoropyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-5-methyl-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;  
5,2'-difluoro-5'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)-biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
1-[4-fluoro-3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-5-methyl-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;  
5-methyl-1-(2,2',3'-trifluorobiphenyl-5-yl)-1,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-4-one;  
4,2'-difluoro-5'-(5-methyl-4-oxo-4,5-dihydroimidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-1-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 11, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.